

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SPC-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-07 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 INT-08 SCI-06 FEA-02 L-03 DODE-00 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 AGR-20 NEA-10 /198 W

----- 115415

R 050340Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6373

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 0940

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, EGEN, PFOR, ID, MY, SN, TH, JA

SUBJECT: ASEAN-JAPAN EXPERTS MEETING IN KUALA LUMPUR ON
SYNTHETIC RUBBER

REF: TOKYO 2752

1. ACCORDING GOM OFFICIALS MEETING ADVANCED
DISCUSSION ON SYNTHETIC PRODUCTION BUT PRODUCED LITTLE
IN TERMS OF TANGIBLE RESULTS. COMMUNIQUE FROM MEETING
REFERS ONLY TO "FRANK AND FRUITFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND
USEFUL INFORMATION" ON YNTHETIC RUBBER PROBLEMS AND
IMPACT OF ENERGY CRISIS. FROM POINT OF VIEW OF GOM
RESULTS WERE NOT DISAPPOINTING. ALTHOUGH GOM HAS BEEN
PRINCIPAL INSTIGATOR OF ADEAN PRESSURE ON GOJ, WITH OIL
PRICES HAVING RISEN GOM NOW OPTIMISTIC ABOUT COMPETITIVE
POSITION OF NATURAL RUBBER AND THEIR CONCRN ABOUT
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JAPANESE EXPORTS OF SYNTHETIC RUBBER CORRESPONDINGLY

REDUCED. THUS GOM DOES NOT CONSIDER IT NECESSARY AT PRESENT TO PUSH GOJ ON ITS PRODUCTION, PARTICULARLY SINCE OTHER ASEAN MEMEBERS HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT TO GIVE JOINT APPROACH THEIR FULL SUPPORT.

2. MFA ASS'T SECRETARY TOLD US MAJOR GOM WORRY NOW IS POSSIBLITY OF JAPANESE CONSTRUCTION SYNTHETIC PLANTS ELSEWHERE. MALAYSIANS BELIEVE GOJ HAS DISCUSSED INSTALLATION OF SYNTHETIC CAPACITY WITH MIDDLE EAST GOVTS IN CONNECTION WITH LONG-TERM OIL SUPPLIES. MFA INDICATED THIS QUESTION NOT RPT NOT RAISED AT ASEAN MEETING.

3. EMBASSY COMMENT: SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP GOM HAS BEEN NURSING WITH ARAB STATES PLACES THEM IN AWKWARD POSITION REGARDING POSSIBLE SYNTHETIC RUBBER PRODUCTION IN MIDDLE EAST. THUS FAR GOM HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN ABLE TO FORMULATE AN APPROACH TO THE ISSUE AND APPEARS TO ACCEPT WATCHFUL WAITING AS PREFERABLE ACTION FOR THE PRESENT. UNDERHILL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMITTEE MEETINGS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, SYNTHETIC RUBBERS, CONSULTANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KUALA00940
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740368/aaaackxk.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TOKYO 2752
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUL 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <28 JAN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASEAN-JAPAN EXPERTS MEETING IN KUALA LUMPUR ON SYNTHETIC RUBBER
TAGS: ETRD, EGEN, PFOR, ID, MY, SN, TH, JA, ASEAN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005